

### VICTIM IMPACT PANEL SENDS STRONG MESSAGE IN WHITMAN COUNTY

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High risk behaviors involving alcohol and other drugs are a major concern for Whitman County residents. Communities throughout Whitman County and Washington are impacted by the financial and emotional factors that are inflicted upon a community as a result of high risk offender behaviors.

**How did Commerce and Palouse River Counseling help solve the problem?**

Palouse River Counseling in collaboration and coordination with Whitman County District Court Judge Robinson and the Pullman School District created the Whitman County Victim Impact Panel\*.

**Benefits:** High-risk offenders and the general public benefited due to the reduction of destructive choices made by the offenders.

**Results:** Victim Impact Panel evaluation results were incredibly high in regard to it being a catalyst for change in high risk offender behaviors. A great example is that 38% of respondents stated they would seek chemical dependency counseling.

**Summary:** Palouse River Counseling in collaboration and coordination with Whitman County District Court Judge Robinson and the Pullman School District created the Whitman County Victim Impact Panel\* in order to combat the destructive choices made by high risk substance abuse offenders.

Note\* A victim impact panel is defined as:

*A form of community-based or restorative justice in which the crime victims (or relatives and friends of deceased crime victims) meet with the defendant after conviction to tell the convict about how the criminal activity affected them, in the hope of rehabilitation or deterrence.*

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victimology>

